

REMARKS

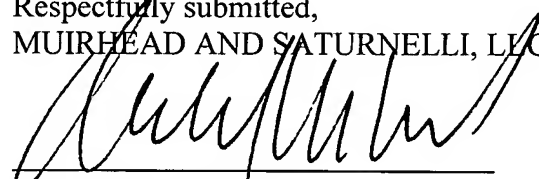
This paper is being provided in response to the Final Office Action dated February 23, 2007, for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 27 (claims 3 and 8-24 having been previously cancelled) without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and amended claims 2, 4 and 32 to clarify that which Applicants consider to be the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 6, 7, 25, 26, 28-31 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 5, 32 and 33. Applicants have rewritten claims 4 and 32 into independent form to incorporate the features of the base claim and any intervening claims (claims 5 and 33 depend, respectively, therefrom) and have cancelled claims 1 and 27 herein. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all pending claims stand allowed or are allowable.

The rejections of claims 1, 2, 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0121709 to Matsuki, et al. (hereinafter "Matsuki") has been rendered moot by the cancellation herein of claims 1 and 27 and the amendment here to the dependency of claim 2.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
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